

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03877 181328Z

43

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TAGS: PFOR, IR, SA

SUB: IRAN/SAUDI ARABIAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) TEHRAN 3567, (B) TEHRAN 3619

DURING AUDIENCE MORNING APRIL 17 TO INTRODUCE MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH MILES, NEW CHIEF ARMISH/MAAG, PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA'S RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN'S RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY WERE BROUGHT UP. SHAH REACTED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT HOVEYDA'S TRIP HAD GONE WELL. HE SAID THAT THE SAUDIS HAD AGREED ON THIS OCCASION TO CONDUCT THOROUGH CONSULTATION WITH IRAN ON ALL MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE INVOLVING THE PERSIAN GULF AREA. HE ADDED THAT THE SAUDI KEADERS TOLD HOVEYDA THAT THEY BACK THE PRESENCE OF IRANIAN TROOPS IN DHOFAR. SHAH'S FINAL COMMENT WAS, "THE SAUDI LEADERS HAVE THEIR HEARTS IN THE RIGHT PLACE. AFTER ALL, THEY ARE ARABS AND THEY HAVE THEIR OWN PARTICULAR PROBLEMS AND WAYS OF DOING BUSINESS."

HELMS

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